

Remarks

This amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on March 28, 2007. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 7-9, 13, 14, 17, and 18. In this paper, claim 1 is being cancelled, claims 8, 9, and 17 are being rewritten in independent form, claims 2-18 are being amended, new claims 19 and 20 are being added, and the specification is being amended. In view of the above amendments, cancellation of claim 1, and following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 2-20.

In the Office Action, claims 1-3, 5, 6, 10-12, 15, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by German Patent 2,508,275. Claim 1 is being canceled and claim 15 is being amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 8. Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 10-12 and 16 are being amended to ultimately depend from one of claims 8 and 15. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3, 5, 6, 10-12, 15, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

In the Office Action, claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over German Patent 2,508,275 in view of Bogle et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,597,063). Claim 4 depends from claim 3 which depends from claim 2. Claim 2 is being amended to depend from claim 8 which is indicated to contain allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

In the Office Action, claims 7-9, 13, 14, 17, and 18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 8 and 9 are being rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 7, 13, 14, and 17 depend from claim 8. Claim 18 is also being rewritten in independent form including some, but not all, of the limitations of the base claim. Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 18 is allowable in its amended form. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the objection to claims 7-9, 13, 14, 17, and 18.

Finally, new claims 19 and 20 are being added. Claim 19 claims a conveying system including at least one intermediate element bridging a gap between first and the

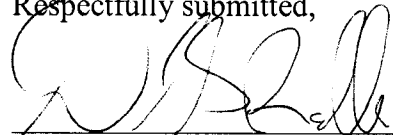
second transverse conveying belts. The intermediate element having a first portion extending under the second conveyor belt and a second portion including fingers extending into grooves formed in the first conveyor belt. Applicant respectfully asserts that none of the cited references disclose conveying system having an intermediate element including a first portion extending under the second conveyor belt and a second portion including fingers extending into grooves formed in the first conveyor belt. New claim 20 depends from 19. Accordingly, allowance of claims 19 and 20 are respectfully requested.

In addition, claims 2 and 5 are being amended to substitute the phrase "grid-shaped" with the phrase "comb-shaped" which is a better description of the comb-shaped part of a slide-over surface between the first and the second conveying surface shown in Figs. 1 and 2 of Applicant's original disclosure. In addition, pages 3, 4, 6,8, 9, and 11 are being amended to consistently use the term "comb-shaped," correct errors, and improve the readability of the text.

In view of the above remarks, cancellation of claim 1, amendment to the specification and claims, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 2-20. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned via telephone in the event all of the pending claims are not deemed allowable.

No additional fees for filing this response are believed to be due, with the exception of a fee for an additional independent claim and a one month extension of time to respond, which the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to deposit account no. 17-0055. However, if additional fees are due, including any fees for additional extensions of time to respond, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge them to deposit account no. 17-0055.

Respectfully submitted,



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